and Naupada-Gunupur in Orissa, sanctioned in 1995-96 and 1997-98, is still languishing;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in taking up the projects; and

(c) the fresh steps taken for expeditious completion of work on these projects?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c) The work of gauge conversion of Rupsa-Bangriposi (89 km) was included in the budget 1995-96. In phase I, the work on Rupsa-Baripada (52 km) is in progress. The work is progressing as per availability of resources.

The work of gauge conversion of Naupada-Gunupur was included in the budget 1997-98 with the proviso that the work would be taken up after obtaining necessary clearances. Action for obtaining clearances has been initiated. The work on this project would be taken up after requisite clearances are available.

Conversion of Bhuj-Nalia Rail Line

*289. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey for conversion of Bhuj-Nalia rail line has been completed; and

(b) if so, by when the project is expected to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to unremunerative nature and acute constraints of resources, it has not been found feasible to take up the project.

Offices of Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation at Vijayawada

*290. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have allotted land for construction of offices of Catering and Tourism Corporation at Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the area of land allotted;